



SINGLETON EDIT





Mayor's Message

Cr Sue Moore
MAYOR

We're already proud of the lifestyle offered by the Singleton local government area, where we celebrate city convenience with a rural heartbeat. But we're always looking to progress and evolve, and there's more that we can do to make our LGA even better for our residents now, and for generations to come.

Funding opportunities play a critical role in being able to deliver more for our community. Our success in recent years demonstrates the productive relationships we have with all levels of government, and which I look forward to continuing with the new Labor NSW Government following the March election.

As we head into 2023/2024, Council's Operational Plan includes a mix of projects to enhance liveability across Singleton, including almost \$1million for new footpaths and shared pathways, as well as economic development programs to help build capacity for local

businesses and our workforce, and a particular focus on tourism with the development of a Singleton Visitor Economy Action Plan and promotion of Lake St Clair.

Working closely with our residents, businesses and all levels of government, our focus is to help people feel good about living, working and investing in Singleton—and that goes to the heart of creating a community that is vibrant, connected, progressive, resilient and sustainable.

You can find the 2023/2024 Operational Plan at www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/operationalplan or scan the QR code.



Scan the QR code
to find out more
information

Singleton Council acknowledges the Wanaruah, Wonnarua people and their custodianship of the Land in the Singleton Local Government Area and pays our respect to Elders past present and future.



Harry Kirkwood using the new footpath on Patrick Street.

PATHS OF PROGRESS

New footpaths + shared pathways

Footpaths (funded under the TfNSW Active Transport program with 20% co-contribution from Council):

- Patrick Street from Boundary Street to Queen Street – completed. **\$120,000**
- Hunter Street from Church Street to New England Highway – completed. **\$46,500**
- Market Street from New England Highway to Patrick Street – scheduled to start in early April 2023 with four week construction period. **\$110,520**
- Boundary Street from Broughton Street to Queen Street (includes a pedestrian refuge across Gipps St/Broughton St) – scheduled to start in May. **\$118,200**

Shared Paths (Council funded):

- Civic Avenue from Gym and Swim to Combo Lane. **\$51,800**
- Combo Lane from St Catherine's College car park to Queen Street. **\$100,000**

Shared Path (NSW Government Resources For Regions funded):

- Milbrodale Road from James Herbert Bridge to Adams Peak Road. Starting on site June 2023 with completion scheduled for September 2023. **\$740,210**

We're making tracks on extending the footpath and shared pathway network across the local government area, with more than \$1.3million spent in 2022/2023 including \$720,000 for the Milbrodale Road shared path which will carry over into 2023/2024.

Pathways were the top priority in the Create Singleton 2032 Community Strategic Plan.

"We've been working on connecting existing footpaths to create better links in and around Singleton town centre, and we're pleased to have NSW Government Resources For Regions funding to extend the shared path on Milbrodale Road," Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr, Council's Director Infrastructure and Planning Services said.

In addition to an application for \$1.2million in projects submitted to the Transport for NSW Walking and Cycling Program for 2023/2024, Council will also develop a new Walking and Cycling Plan.

"We'll be looking at the feedback we received from the Create Singleton 2032 Community Strategic Plan and going back to the community to get more detail about what people want in the future," Mr Fitzpatrick-Barr said.



TAKEN FOR GRANTED

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore with
Singleton Netball Association president
Alex Bailey and U/14s players

A greater focus on grant applications injected more than \$25 million into Council's budget in 2022/2023, covering operations and capital works projects to enhance connectedness and wellbeing across our local government area.

In a response to the ever-growing squeeze on resources and based on the community's priorities from the Create Singleton 2032 Community Strategic Plan, Council's doubled down approach to grants management has reaped millions of dollars in rewards.

But Dwight Graham, Council's Director Corporate and Commercial Services, said the benefits to the community were far greater than the monetary value.

In 2022/2023, 47 projects out of 77 infrastructure projects on Council's capital works schedule were funded by grants, amounting to \$15.4million or 62 per cent of the cost of the total capital works budget.

Projects covered major civil infrastructure including Hamiltons Crossing (NSW Government Resources For Regions) through to fencing at Townhead Park (Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program).

"These are critical projects that make life better for our residents through infrastructure improvements such as road rehabilitations, causeways and bridges, and bringing people together through new playgrounds and recreation facilities," Mr Graham said.

"And we're seeing the same trend for next year. Even as we were finalising Council's Operational Plan for 2023/2024, we were still waiting on the outcomes of grant applications to be included.

"There's a \$4million spend in open space and reserves alone next year, including \$1.2million for netball, \$600,000 for the Broke Recreation Ground, a playground for Lake St Clair and a mountain bike track that are all entirely grant-funded.

"The reality is that without grant opportunities, these projects simply would not happen."

Mr Graham said relationships with the community as well as all levels and sides of government and funding bodies were critical to Council's successful approach.

"What we're most proud of is the collaborative approach with our community on preparing grant applications," he said.

"Bearing in mind there are strict guidelines around grant programs, we have a unique approach to the NSW Government's Resources for Regions program to include community projects in Singleton's applications, and strong partnerships with groups such as Singleton Sports Council to keep up with the needs of our community.

"Combined with a strategic approach, we're well-placed to make strong applications to the State and Federal governments as opportunities become available."



SPIRIT OF PLACE

A special exhibition at Singleton Arts and Cultural Centre will transport visitors to some of the most remote Aboriginal sites in the Hunter Valley, without having to leave the four walls of the gallery.

*Image: Cave with hand stencils and drawings in charcoal
Image right: Artist Uncle Warren Taggart, Carol Carter
and Allan Chawner*

'Spirit of Place', based on the book of the same name by Wonnarua elder and former Singleton Citizen of the Year Warren Taggart in collaboration with Carol Carter and Allan Chawner, features photographs of cave shelters, rock engravings and landmarks of significant cultural importance alongside a selection of cultural objects from Uncle Warren's personal collection.

The exhibition will open on Saturday 24 June at 2pm with a special smoking ceremony conducted by Uncle Warren and be displayed in the main gallery until 3 September 2023.

Uncle Warren said his love for the mountains drew from his connection to the ancestors and elders whose stories lived on through the remnants of art, rock engraving and stone arrangements.

"There are sacred sites throughout our landscape and every site is significant because what it shows is that our ancestors were here. Even if there are just tiny lines of charcoal, we know they were here," he said.

"The book was put together to show people what is hidden in the area surrounding Singleton, and now the whole idea of the exhibition is to allow people to experience the spiritual connection of sacred sites without having to physically disturb them."

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said the exhibition embodied the purpose for the Arts and Cultural Centre to reflect the identity of



"This is an extraordinary representation of just how important this place has been to people long before we came to know it as Singleton," she said. "I hope people will take this opportunity to experience thousands of years of settlement and reflect on everything that makes our area unique."

Danny Eather, President of Business Singleton, said 'Spirit of Place' was an invitation to people to discover there's more to Singleton than mines and wine.

"This exhibition is a wonderful demonstration of the culture and heritage that is central to our community and for visitors to our region," he said. "It offers the opportunity to share local cultural stories with visitors — adding a significantly spiritual experience to their itinerary."

BE A VOICE FOR GENERATIONS

National Reconciliation Week Flag Raising

Thursday 1 June 2023 | 10am
Singleton Civic Centre

The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2023, Be a Voice for Generations, encourages all Australians to be a voice for reconciliation in tangible ways in our everyday lives – where we live, work and socialise.



Follow us on Facebook
to watch the livestream
@SingletonCouncil



COMMUNITY RATED

What do you love about your community?
What improvements could make it even better?

Singleton Council is encouraging everyone to be part of the 2023 Australian Liveability Census to provide your views on what makes your neighbourhood great, as well as share your big and small ideas for what could make it an even better place to live.

The Census aims to capture all your thoughts about your neighbourhood, from the quality of footpaths and open spaces to sustainability and protection of the environment to ease of parking.

Everyone who completes the 15-minute survey also has the chance to win one of 50 x \$100 gift vouchers.

“All the information collected from the Singleton local government area will come back to Council to give us a greater insight into what our residents want and to help guide future decision-making, as well as inform national and State planning investment strategies,” Vicki Brereton, Council’s Director Organisation and Community Capacity said.



The 2023 Australian Liveability Census is open until 30 June 2023.

Scan the QR code to take the quick survey.
Cant’ use the QR? Go to:
survey.placescore.org/s3/lc23-do-nsw-singleton

Council’s Community Development Officer Emily Caelli and Senior Community Development Specialist Kristy Murphy



FOR OUR ELDERS
2-9 JULY 2023

NAIDOC COMMUNITY DAY

Wednesday 5 July 2023
10am-2pm | Singleton Showground

SLAM DUNK

The transformation of Alroy Oval in Singleton Heights is underway, with a slam dunking first phase of a Master Plan to deliver the first full-size outdoor basketball court in the Singleton local government area as part of a multi-use facility also incorporating futsal and netball.

The \$250,000 project, funded by the NSW Regional Housing Fund, also includes a new playground with a soccer theme in keeping with the vision for the site to become a soccer precinct.

Developed in consultation with the Singleton Strikers FC and Singleton Track and Field, the master plan provides for three full-sized football

pitches, upgraded amenities building and car park, shelters and footpaths.

“We’re excited to see the master plan come to life, starting with the new playground and multi-use facility that’s going to bring new opportunities for people in our community,” Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr, Council’s Director Infrastructure and Planning said.

“But the first stage is just that – a good start.

“The Federal Member for Hunter Dan Repacholi MP made a funding commitment to Alroy Oval during the Federal election, and we are working with him and others to seek further funding to deliver the plan in its entirety sooner rather than later.”



SPECIAL TREATMENT

A \$4million project to better gauge the inflows to Council’s Sewer Treatment Plant and deliver cleaner water in the next stage of the treatment process is complete.

The new inlet works is one of a number of projects in line for the Plant to improve the efficiency of operations now, and for decades to come.

Also underway are a \$1.2million chemical dosing facility that will limit nutrients and phosphorous being released into Doughboy Hollow, and new sludge lagoon lining worth \$1million.

Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr, Council’s Director Infrastructure and Planning, said the projects were part of Council’s commitment to efficiency and an investment in infrastructure for the long-term.

“The new inlet works is a considerable leap forward for the Sewer Treatment Plant,” he said. “This is the gateway to the plant, where raw sewage first enters the system from our town’s three sewer mains.

“We now have flowmeters on each main that monitor the volume of flow coming into the plant more precisely, as well as a grit removal system that means sewer use is even better treated before it passes into the reactors in the next stage of the treatment process.”

The new system also builds on an expanded recycled water system—using recycled water rather than potable water in the treatment process—that was recognised at the Sustainable Communities – Tidy Towns Awards for 2022.

The recycled water project, which has saved tens of thousands of kilolitres of potable water and tens of thousands of dollars in operations costs at the Sewer Treatment Plant, took out the Resource Recovery and Waste Minimisation Award (Population Category D – 12,001 to 23,000 people).

“In addition to the installation of solar panels at the site last year, we’re taking action to making the Sewer Treatment Plant the most efficient and environmentally sensitive as it can be,” Mr Fitzpatrick-Barr said.



Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore, Federal Member for Hunter Dan Repacholi MP and Council Project Engineer Mohammad Hasan

Council’s Coordinator Utilities Engineering – Water + Sewer Clayton Mielchei
and Utilities Engineer – Process, Water + Sewer Dinesh Nutalapati

JERRYS PLAINS

• COUNCIL KIOSK •

COMMUNITY HALL

27 JULY 2023 | 10am - 5pm

We're bringing Council to you!

Council Kiosk is our mobile Administration office that will visit a number of locations across our local government area throughout the year, so we can meet with you for Council services and talk about what's happening in your neighbourhood.

Our first stop is Jerrys Plains where there'll be a range of services and activities including:

- Face-to-face service to make a payment, complete forms and ask questions
- Find out information about Council or learn more about what's happening in your area
- Have a cup of tea and chat with Councillors and Council staff
- Get involved in a range of workshops, including arts + culture and how to make your home more sustainable
- Bring the kids for an extra special Storytime
- Pick up Library items
- Provide feedback and input

Everyone is invited to come along!



Scan the QR code to find out more information or visit singleton.nsw.gov.au/councilkiosk

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